

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 ACDA-19 NEA-10 RSR-01 /152 W

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R 101805 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8234

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2842

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET SO PBOR MOPS

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN/ SOMALI BORDER INCIDENTS

REF: MOGADISCIO 0467; ADDIS ABABA 4148

1. ON APRIL 10, RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT ITALIANS NOW INFORMED ABOUT SOMALI CROSS- BORDER INCURSION DESCRIBED IN REFTELS. ACCORDING SOURCE, HIM CALLED IN SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS AND STATED THAT IF SOMALI FORCES NOT REPEAT NOT WITHDRAWN, IEG WOULD BE COMPELLED TO TAKE COUNTERMEASURES. ITALIANS ALSO INFORMED THAT IEG HAD NOTIFIED OAU OF BORDER INCURSION. ITALIAN REPORTS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY PRESSING TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST SOMALIS, BUT BEING RESTRAINED BY HIM. SOURCE EXPRESSED ITALIAN VIEW THAT RESTRAINT WOULD BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT IF BORDER TENSIONS CONTINUE.

2. OFFICIAL SAID ITALIANS VIEW SOMALI INCURSION AS ATTEMPT TO ENGAGE OAU IN ETHIOPIAN/ SOMALI BORDER PROBLEM, AND ALSO AS DEVICE TO RALLY SOMALIS BEHIND SIAD REGIME.

3. ACCORDING SOURCE, SOMALI/ ETHIOPIAN BORDER TENSION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY FONMIN UNDER- SECRETARY PEDINI WITH MOHAMMAD ADEN DURING PEDINI' S CURRENT VISIT TO MOGADISCIO. PEDINI HAD REPORTED THAT SOMALIS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SITUATION, AND SOMALIS COMPTPIED THAT IEG HAS SHOWN NO REPEAT NO COMPREHENSION OF
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PROBLEM. OFFICIAL SAID SOMALIS DID NOT REPEAT NOT REQUEST ITALIAN
INTERVENTION IN ADDIS. HE EXPECTED TO HAVE FURTHER DETAILS ON
SITUAUTION WHEN PEDINI RETURNS TO ROME ON EVENING OF APRIL 10.
VOLPE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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